

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-07

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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6822

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 3750

NAIROBI FOR AMBCARTER; PRETORIA FOR ASST SECTY EASUM

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR, EAID, TZ

SUBJECT : TANGOV REQUESTS FOOD GRAIN

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT NYERERE CORRECTS LOW ESTIMATE OF TANZANIA'S GRAIN NEEDS TO JULY 1975 AND REQUESTS U.S. SATISFY FULLY EARLIER TANGOV REQUEST FOR PL 480 ASSISTANCE. MISSION, WHICH HAS REVIEWED MOST RECENT TANGOV ANALYSIS FOOD GRAIN SITUATION, BELIEVES TANGOV HAS CAUSE FOR ALARM. FAMINE IN LATTER PORTION FIRST SIX MONTHS 1975 IN TANZANIA IS POSSIBLE. RECOMMEND, THEREFORE, DEPARTMENT GRANT TANGOV REQUEST FOR PL 480 TITLE I AID AND ADVISE US SOONEST. END SUMMARY.

1. ESTIMATES OF TANZANIAN NEED FOR FOOD GRAINS TO AVERT FAMINE HERE IN FIRST SIX MONTHS 1975 CHANGING RAPIDLY. THERE FOLLOWS REPORT THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND OUR CONSIDERED ESTIMATE CURRENT SITUATION.

2. GENERAL MANAGER NATIONAL MILLING CORP. SHEKILANGO TELEPHONED EARLY EVENING NOVEMBER 11 TO SAY HE HAD MESSAGE TO DELIVER TO ME FROM PRESIDENH NYERERE. TOLD SHEKILANGO COME RIGHT OVER. ON ARRIVAL FEW MINUTES LATER, SHEKILANGO SAID HE BRIEFED NYERERE ON GRAIN SITUATION THAT DAY. WHEN HE FINISHED NYERERE TOLD SHEKILANGO HE HAD GIVEN AMERICAN EMBASSY INACCURATE REPORT

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TANZANIAN NEED FOR GRAIN (DAR ES SALAAM 3685). NYERERE RE-

REQUESTED SHEKILANGO TO BRIEF US IMMEDIATELY AND TO REITERATE HIS (NYERERE'S) PERSONAL SUPPORT FOR ORIGINAL TANGOV REQUEST TO US.

3. SHEKILANGO SAID TANZANIAN NEEDS BY JUNE-JULY 1975 ARE AS FOLLOWS: 300,000 MT CORN (MAIZE); 45,000 MT WHEAT; AND 15,000 MT RICE. TOTAL IS ABOUT 360,000 MT PB FIRST SIX MONTHS 1975. GRAIN IS HARVESTED IN TANZANIA BEGINNING IN JULY. IF HARVEST POOR, TANZANIA WILL NEED 500,000 TO 800,000 MT IN CY 1975 AS DIRECTOR GENERAL BOERMA OF UN'S FAO REPORTED NOVEMBER 8.

4. TANGOV ORIGINAL REQUEST OF U.S., SHEKILANGO SAID, WAS FOR 200,000 MT CORN (MAIZE), 45,000 MT WHEAT AND 15,000 MT RICE. (FYI: AS DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL, POSSIBLE U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO TANZANIA OF 60,000 MT FOOD GRAINS WHICH BECAME CURRENT IN LOCAL PRESS WAS APPARENTLY RESULT OF TELLING TANGOV OFFICIALS NO RPT NO CORN AVAILABLE. END FYI)

5. TANZANIA HAS ARRANGED PURCHASE, SHEKILANGO CONTINUED, 15,000 MT CORN THROUGH PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND TANGOV IS NOW TENDERING FOR ADDITIONAL 45,000 MT CORN. U.S. HAS PROMISED TO DATE 20,000 MT FOOD GRAINS. OTHER OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE, E.G., SWEDISH GRANTS TO BUY FOOD, MAY TOTAL AS MUCH AS 30,000 MT. SHEKILANGO ESTIMATES SHORTFALL IN FIRST SIX MONTHS 1975, THEREFORE, WILL AMOUNT TO AS MUCH AS 200,000 MT.

6. IN RESPONSE QUESTION, SHEKILANGO SAID TANZANIA WOULD BE OUT OF FOOD BY APRIL-MAY IF ORDERS NOT PLACED NOW IN AMOUNTS HE HAD INDICATED. HE SAID DESIRE FOR CORN (MAIZE) PARTICULARLY, IS RESULT PEOPLE'S PREFERENCE. ADMITTED IMPORTANCE OBTAINING SOME CORN IS IN PART PHYCHOLOGICAL, BUT THAT IS FACT OF LIFE IN TANZANIA. HOPED SOME OF OUR HELP, THEREFORE, COULD BE IN CORN. TANZANIA HAS ALSO ABOUT EXHAUSTED ITS FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND ITS ACCESS TO FOREIGN EXCHANGE SOURCES. IN LIGHT THESE FACTS, TANGOV ASKS WE RECONSIDER REQUEST FOR PL 480 TITLE I HELP.

7. COMMENT: RESULT REVIEW IN PAST TWO DAYS SITUATION BY AMBASSADOR CARTER AND ALL MEMBERS MISSION CONCERNED, WE BE-
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LIEVE NYERERE AND OTHER TANGOV OFFICIALS HAVE RIGHT TO BE ALARMED. SITUATION IS MORE SERIOUS THAN WE HAD PREVIOUSLY BELIEVED. WE ESTIMATE SHORTFALL BEFORE RPT BEFORE JULY 1975 WILL BE BETWEEN 100,000 AND 200,000 MT. TANGOV HAS BEEN FORTH-RIGHT WITH US AND, IN OUR OPINION, HAS TRIED HARD TO GAUGE ACCURATELY ITS NEED. WE HAD SPECULATED EARLIER, HOWEVER, TANGOV MIGHT BE UNDERESTIMATING SIZE OF ITS PROBLEM (DAR ES SALAAM A-138 AND A-174). TANGOV HAS TRIED, AND IS TRYING, TO

MEET ITS NEED TO EXTENT POSSIBLE FROM ITS OWN RESOURCES AND
FROM OTHER SOURCES HELP AVAILABLE TO IT. IT IS NOW APPARENT
THESE SOURCES ARE NOT RPT NOT ADEQUATE. UNLESS WE CAN HELP,
THERE IS GOING TO BE FAMINE HERE IN LATTER PART FIRST SIX
MONTHS 1975. WE RECOMMEND, THEREFORE, RECONSIDERATION
TANGOV'S REQUEST FOR TITLE I ASSISTANCE ON EMERGENCY BASIS.
ALSO WE ASK THAT WE BE INFORMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHAT U.S.
CAN AND CANNOT DO TO HELP TANZANIA IN THIS SITUATION, THAT
IS BY END NOVEMBER AT LATEST IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

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